

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Australian Tree Fern

Maui County Priority Pest for Molokai:

Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*) is planted in residential areas but escapes into natural areas via lightweight wind blown spores. This tall fern (12m or 40ft) is established in the wild on Maui, but can be prevented from escape on Molokai.

Identification

Stem- covered by cleancut oval scars

Leaves- grouped at top of trunk rather than spread along the length

Scales- long white and short red-brown scales found at base of fronds

Sori (cluster of spores)- on middle of fern leaflet division



Mature leaves form tight rosette at top of trunk



Leaf detail



Don't mistake Australian tree fern for these look-alikes:



Hapuu (*Cibotium* species)

The native Hawaiian tree fern, Hapuu, has blond to red colored hairs along the base of the trunk, rather than scales like the Australian tree fern. The sori (clusters of spores) are powdery white and found on the edge of the leaflet division.



Detail of hairs at base of Hapuu fronds

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Maui/Lanai: 573-6471 Molokai: 553-5236

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